(e) To further minimise the extent of non-functional plants, Government has taken various measures, such as continuous and vigorous monitoring of biogas plants through State Government nodal agencies, independent evaluation studies, establishment of Regional Project Offices of Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources and monitoring cells in many States. Seven Regional Biogas Training and Development Centres have been established for providing technical and training support and financial assistance is given for creation of organisational infrastructure in the field specifically for biogas programme.

Bonds for the Bakreshwar Thermal Power Project

972. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have refused permission to float bonds for the Bakreshwar Thermal Power Project;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for such refusal; and

(c) whether the proposed decision will deprive the local industry from reaping any benefit from the Rs. 600 crore project as all the equipments will now be imported form U.S.S.R.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER, IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) and (b) The present scheme of floating Bonds introduced by the Central Government is confined to Central Public Sector Undertakings, primarily in the infrastructure fields. The question of extending the facility to financially viable State Undertakings in similar fields will be decided by Government after sufficient experience has been gained in the operation of the scheme and in the light of the overall resources position of the Central Government in relation to its commitments.

(c) The question of import of equipment for the proposed Bakreshwar Thermal Power Project would arise only after the offers received for implementing the project have been assessed by Government and investment approval has been accorded to the project.

Mangalore Refinery

973. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER:
PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA:
SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:
SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of private sector companies which have been selected for Joint Sector Refinery at Mangalore; and

(b) the time by when work will commence on this refinery?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) M/s. Indian Rayon Corporation Ltd. have been selected as the private sector co-promoter with whom Hindustan Petroleum Corporation has been asked to prepare a Detailed Project Report for the petrochemical refinery at Mangalore. They will also enter into a Memorandum of Understanding and the work on the DPR will commence after the M.O.U. is arrived at.

Light Commercial Vehicle Industry

974. SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Light Commercial Vehicle Industry is facing a recession and if so, what are the reasons therefor and the steps being taken by Government to meet the situation;